7 PHARMACEUTICAL IDENTIFIERS Page 1 of 1 Division of Forensic Science Amendment Designator: A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES PROCEDURES MANUAL Effective Date: 6-July-2005

7 PHARMACEUTICAL IDENTIFIERS

7.1 Introduction:

Pharmaceutical preparations possess unique identifying information both in the general appearance of the preparation and the inscriptions or markings.

7.2 Procedure:

- 7.2.1 It is normally acceptable to visually examine marked tablets or untampered, marked capsules in those cases involving misdemeanor prosecutions. This includes simple possession for drugs in Schedules III and IV and all charges for drugs in Schedules V and VI. Results should be reported as given in the Reporting Guidelines section of this manual.
 - 7.2.1.1. Check the PDR, Poison Control, DEA Logo Index, Identadrug, Drug ID Bible or other similar sources for information relating to inscriptions on tablets and capsules. Two unrelated references are recommended for unfamiliar tablets. Reference information including page number should be recorded in the case notes.
 - 7.2.1.2. It should be recorded in the case notes if any tampering is evident from the dosage unit appearance.
 - 7.2.1.3. Tamperable capsules should be screened for tampering using appropriate color tests or TLC using the hypergeometric sampling scheme.
 - 7.2.1.4. If tampering is not detected, it may be acceptable to report as visually examined.
 - 7.2.1.5. If tampering is suspected, then a complete analytical scheme including a structural elucidation technique is required for identification.
- 7.2.2 At least one dosage unit must be fully tested in those cases involving felony prosecutions. This includes those substances in Schedule II as well as substances in Schedules III and IV with any charge other than simple possession. Results should be reported as given in the Reporting Guidelines section of this manual.
 - 7.2.2.1. Visually examine the tablets, capsules, etc. to determine that their size, color and markings are consistent. Check the PDR, Poison Control, DEA Logo Index, Identadrug, Drug ID Bible or other similar sources for information relating to inscriptions on tablets and capsules. Only one reference is necessary. Reference information including page number should be recorded in the case notes.
 - 7.2.2.2. Tamperable capsules should be screened for tampering using appropriate color tests or TLC using the hypergeometric sampling scheme.
 - 7.2.2.3. If all dosage units are visually similar and if tamperable capsules have consistent screening results, take one representative sample for analysis.
 - 7.2.2.4. A structural elucidation technique must be used within the analytical scheme.
- 7.2.3 When the sample is not an identifiable pharmaceutical preparation, it is required that a definitive structural elucidation technique be used within the analytical scheme, if the substance is to be reported.
- 7.2.4 Physical identifiers serve as an effective preliminary test within the full analytical scheme.
- 7.2.5 "No controlled substances found" or "No controlled substances identified" may be used for reporting those non-controlled substances not structurally identified.